

IDAHO COMMUNITY TREES

A NEWS BULLETIN FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO AND THE IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS—COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM

News You Can Use

No. 16 Fall 2000

"Success starts with a vision for what could be..."

— Craig Foss in 'Coordinator's Comments'

Coordinator's Comments

When Idaho became a member of the Pacific Northwest - International Society of Arboriculture Chapter in 1997, we were given the opportunity to host a future annual training conference. In 1998 our proposal to host the 2000 conference was approved and our work began.

Our planning committee consisted of representatives from state, county and local government, a regional power company, statewide nursery association, private businesses and volunteers from all walks of life. With guidelines from the chapter office, we set out to create an Idaho conference that would meet the diverse needs of our chapter's 1000 members. A few committee members assumed leadership roles for the major program areas, while others stepped into the important but less recognized "worker" roles. Regardless of one's professional position outside our committee, everyone stepped forward to help where needed. Egos were put on the back burner, we worked together, and the end result was a very successful conference.

I relate this to you because this is how local community forestry programs are intended to work. Most cities lack sufficient popula-

tion to hire full time staff. The concept of forming a tree committee, drafting an ordinance, preparing a program work plan, and carrying out plan components throughout the year depends entirely upon partnerships. Every Idaho community consists of a diverse network of public and private interests and abilities. The challenge is to identify at least one leader and establish a common vision. When this occurs, and it is happening in more cities every year, there is no limit to what can be achieved.

Success starts with a vision for what could be, and becomes reality when vision is turned into action. Don't wait for someone else to do it, and don't let failure be an option. Be creative and remember — there is always more than one way to get things done. Give others a chance to participate in the vision, and be respectful of your partners. You'll be amazed not only at the visual changes you bring about in your community, but the strong bond that develops among residents and municipal leaders as they work together.

Get started now. You won't regret it!

— Craig Foss, Community Forestry Coordinator



James R. Fazio

Boise City Forester Jerry Stallsmith (seated) is shown with the co-chairmen of the 2000 ISA regional training conference, Jack McGee (left) of Idaho Power, Boise, and Craig Foss, Idaho Department of Lands Community Forestry Program, Coeur d'Alene. Stallsmith is the 2000 winner of the Pacific Northwest Chapter – ISA Municipal Arborist of the Year Award.

Idaho Hosts ISA Conference

More than 300 professional arborists converged on Boise in September to attend the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture's training conference, "Tree Care for the New Millennium." Events included climbing competitions, outdoor workshops ranging from tree injections to soil compaction therapy, field trips to Clayton Tree Farm and Jayker Wholesale Nursery, and a host of presentations by some of the nation's top experts in the tree care industry.

Idahoans have become an important part of the chapter that includes Oregon, Washington, Alaska and British Columbia. At the

business meeting, Craig Foss of Coeur d'Alene was elected vice president of the chapter. He joins Jack McGee of Boise and Del Jaquish of Post Falls on the 12-person executive board. A goal of the conference, like that of ISA, was to help upgrade the professionalism of all who work with trees. One measure of progress toward this goal is that Idaho now has 141 certified arborists, up from only 5 in 1993 at the inception of certification.

Next year's training conference will be Sept. 23-26, 2001, at Harrison Hot Springs, B.C. This is an excellent opportunity for municipal workers and commercial tree companies.

Meet a Council Member...

This is the second in a series intended to introduce you to the men and women who serve as advisors to the Idaho Department of Lands Community Forestry Program. These individuals volunteer their time and are available in their regions to help others begin or improve systematic care of community trees.

Mike Bowman is Lewiston's city forester and a private consultant affiliated with the American Society of Consulting Arborists. Community forestry is actually Mike's 'second career' after 30 years with the U.S. Forest Service. He began there as a smokejumper, then held a number of positions including assistant director of fire and aviation in Missoula. He also worked for 12 years with the Bureau of Land Management, including conducting the first ever recreation inventory in the Brooks Range of Alaska.

Mike has served as secretary of the Pacific NW Chapter of ISA and was



James R. Fazio


president of the Idaho Community Forestry Council from 1995-97. As Lewiston's first urban forester, he conducted the city's initial street and park tree inventory and long range management plan, and has led a number of massive tree planting projects and successful educational programs. Mike is known for his energetic efforts to promote trees and sound urban forestry through partnerships. His efforts were recognized by The National Arbor Day Foundation with its Award for Public Education that was shared with the Lewis/Clark Valley Advertising Council. Mike can be reached at 208/746-6857 or mbowman@turbonet.com.



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Southeast Garners Grant Money

Southeast Idaho fared well in the distribution of last year's Community Transportation Enhancement grants. Under this program, \$100,000 was made available by the Idaho Dept. of Transportation in cooperation with the Idaho Dept. of Lands to help communities beautify local transportation corridors and thereby create a more positive public image.

Gerry Bates, Idaho's southeast community forestry assistant, reports that approximately \$30,000 was awarded for the following projects: McCammon will improve their city parks, providing a screened and safer play area for children; Blackfoot will plant trees in the business district and improve its entrances into the downtown area; and Inkom will use its grant money to improve walking paths and other amenities in its new 12-acre park.



Marilyn Brown

Requirements for participation in the grant program include the for-

Paul Lish, Mayor of Inkom, left, and Gerry Bates, community forestry assistant, display Inkom's award plaque after receiving Tree City USA recognition for the first time.

mation of a tree committee that advises the city council on tree related issues, and a tree ordinance that gives authority to the committee to act on the behalf of publicly owned trees. It also requires the development of a community forestry work plan outlining the care to be given to trees and shrubs over a three year period. These requirements are similar to standards used in the Tree City USA program. The City of Inkom was able to qualify for a Tree City USA award in 2000 and it is expected that both Blackfoot and McCammon will qualify next year.

Communities in southeast Idaho may contact Gerry Bates for assistance by phoning 208/522-5964 or e-mailing gbates@srv.net.

Lewiston's 'Trees 2000' Successful

Lewiston's project to have 2000 trees planted by year's end topped its goal with donations of \$1,660 and 2,498 trees planted by mid-June. The project was a partnership between Rotary International, local school children and the Lewiston Parks & Recreation Department. It was described in the Fall 1999 issue of *Idaho Community Trees* and is an example of what can be done in a community through a well-organized, highly motivated partnership. For more information on how you might use this program in your community, contact Mike Bowman at 208/746-6857.



Is There an Inventory in Your Future?

If you are thinking of having a tree inventory conducted in your community, you can download a free *Volunteer Training Manual* from www.umass.edu/urbantree/inventorymanual.shtml. The manual has been prepared by the USDA Forest Service Northeast Center for Urban & Community Forestry.

Position Open

The City of Sandpoint has an opening for a part time (19.5 hours/week) city forester. For details phone Kevin Clegg, Planning Director, at 208/263-3370 or e-mail: cityplanning@ci.sandpoint.id.us.

Arbor Day Poster Contest

Arbor Day may still be a long way off, but now is the time for schools to plan for involving their 5th grade students. Public, private, home school or other educational systems are eligible. Contest packets are available now by contacting Milt Williams, Information Officer, Idaho Department of Lands, PO Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720 (e-mail: mwilliams@idl.state.id.us).

Contest winners are eligible for Savings Bonds, a classroom cash award, participation in the state Arbor Day celebration in Boise, and representing Idaho in the national competition. More importantly, all participants learn first-hand about the value of community trees!

Idaho competition deadline: February 28, 2001.



Calendar

November 2-3

Utah Community Forestry & ISA-Utah Chapter Conference, Ogden (Tony Dietz, 801/538-5505)

December 7-8

Tree Appraisal Workshop, Salt Lake City (Tony Dietz, 801/538-5505)

December 8

Idaho Rural Partnership 10th Annual Meeting, Boise (Richard Gardner, 208/334-6118 or www.labor.state.id.us/irp/)

December 13-14

High Desert Tree & Turf Conference, Bend, Oregon (Katie Kause, 541/447-5658)

December 15

TREE CITY USA APPLICATIONS DUE (Mail to IDL Community Forestry Program in Coeur d'Alene)

January 16, 2001

Idaho Community Forestry Council Meeting, Boise (Dave Kiesig, 208/733-9554 ext. 2606)

January 17-19, 2001

Idaho Horticulture Convention and Trade Show, Boise (Ann Bates, 800/INA-GROW or inagrow@srv.net)

January 19, 2001

ARBORIST CERTIFICATION EXAM, Boise (Pacific NW-ISA, 503/874-8263) **Note:** Applications due January 2.

January 20-25, 2001

Western RC&D Association Annual Conference, Boise (Arin Nesbitt or Bill Moore, 208/888-1890 ext. 4, or e-mail anesbitt@micron.net)

February 1-2, 2001

Inland Northwest Turf, Tree & Landscape Conference, Coeur d'Alene (Kelly Newell, 800/942-4978 or wsuconf@wsu.edu)

February 12 - March 16, 2001

ARBOR DAY GRANT SIGN-UP. Grants of \$150 will be available to 50 Idaho cities. Applications will be mailed to all cities and posted on the Community Forestry Web page (www.idahocities.org/Forestry%20Homepage.htm).

April 27, 2001

ARBOR DAY! For a free celebration idea packet, contact Craig Foss at the Idaho Department of Lands Community Forestry Program (See masthead)



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Tree tip



By allowing for uneven spacing of trees, compromises can be reached to accommodate business owners or allow for existing facilities such as street lights.

Marching Soldiers — Break Ranks!

Some landscape designers and developers tend to want trees to be exactly the same and rigidly spaced. While this is sometimes best to provide a "unifying" effect or highly formal appearance (as on palace grounds!), there may be more useful and equally-aesthetic reasons to consider breaking up the tidy lines of look-alike trees.

- ▲ Species diversity can help prevent disastrous results from unexpected pest problems or natural disasters such as ice storms.
- ▲ Size and species diversity can be aesthetically pleasing.
- ▲ Using unequal spacing or clumping trees can prevent blocking street lights, store signs or otherwise causing problems that stem from inflexibility.